

INTERAGENCY CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20408

April 19, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ICRC MEMBERS

SUBJECT:

CLASSIFICATION ABUSE DEFINITION
SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The subject subcommittee has agreed to and recommends to the ICRC for approval the following amendment to the definition of a "classification abuse" as that term is used in Attachment #2, Report of Classification Abuses, to the ICRC's February 27, 1973, Letter of Instructions on the quarterly reporting system:

CURRENT PROVISION

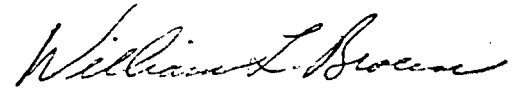
"3. Report Basis and Scope. A classification abuse is identified as an unnecessary classification, an over or underclassification, or failure to assign the proper downgrading and declassification schedule; or improper application of classification markings. It specifically applies to placing a document in an exempt declassification category except as provided in the cited Executive Order or NSC Directive. A classification abuse also includes any classification action by an individual not authorized in writing to exercise appropriate classification or exemption authority, or the improper delegation of such. Classification abuses becoming known during the reporting period as the result of an appropriate Departmental inspection program shall be reported."

PROPOSED PROVISION

"3. Report Basis and Scope. The term "classification abuse" means an unnecessary classification, an over or underclassification, a failure to assign the proper downgrading and declassification schedule, an improper application of classification markings, an improper placing of a document in an exempt declassification category, any classification or exemption action taken without proper authority, or an improper delegation of classification authority. A reportable abuse shall mean any of the actions described above except any such action which results exclusively from a decision on a judgmental

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factor as to which there exists a reasonable and good faith basis for disagreement. Such abuses becoming known during the reporting period, including abuses becoming known as the result of an appropriate Departmental inspection program, shall be reported."



WILLIAM L. BROWN
Executive Director

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Attached is a memorandum of 19 April to ICRC members which was distributed by Bill Brown on Tuesday at the meeting. Action was deferred until the next meeting. Let's discuss at your convenience.

Att



25 April 1974
(DATE)

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